

Submitter:

Cailey Kaschak

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4112

Hello,

My name is Cailey Kaschak and I am a former student leader at Outdoor School. As someone who went to Outdoor School as a sixth grader herself and then returned years later to volunteer as a student leader three times, I have seen firsthand the positive impact that Outdoor School has on our community. Getting to go to Outdoor School as a middle schooler was such an amazing and enriching experience, which I am so appreciative for. It allowed me to connect with nature, learn about my surroundings, solidify old friendships, meet peers from different school districts, make new friends and, most significantly, it sparked my love for the natural world and environmental science. As a current college freshman studying environmental science, I can't thank Outdoor School enough for opening my eyes to this wonderful field. Being an Outdoor School student leader was equally eye opening and rewarding to me. I find it hard to even describe the joy that being a student leader has brought me. Being able to teach a younger generation about science, nature and the environment has been extremely important to me. As we work together in the fight for a healthier, more sustainable world, these sixth graders are our allies. We need Outdoor School for so many reasons, and among them I believe that it is truly vital that we educate the youth on the world around them and what they can do to help the Earth. Outdoor School gives children the knowledge to make the world a better, healthier and more caring place, in an environment that typical school unfortunately cannot. Currently, with limited funds, Outdoor School can't function at the same level as usual. Weeks at Outdoor School have been shortened, significantly impacting the learning and experience of the students, student leaders and staff. I strongly advise that you support bill HB 4112 to restore funding to Outdoor School and improve the lives of countless community members who greatly benefit from this experience.

Thank you,

Cailey Kaschak